GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4654
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT IN AFGHANISTAN
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the UN efforts towards formation of a Government in Afghanistan and the role of India in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) The United Nations, under its auspices, organised a meeting of various Afghan groups in Bonn on 27th November, 2001. The meeting concluded on 5th December 2001 with the signing of Agreement for Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions. The Provisional Arrangements in the Bonn Agreement provide for a) setting up of an Interim Authority, which would be set up upon transfer of power and consist of Interim Administration, A Special Independent Commission and a Supreme Court of Afghanistan b) An Emergency Loya Jirga to be convened by the Special Independent Commission with in six months of the setting up of the Interim Authority, leading to the establishment of c) Transitional Authority and d) A Constitutional Loya Jirga shall be convened within 18 months of the establishment of the Transitional Authority. The Interim Authority is scheduled to assume charge on 22nd December, 2001.

United Nations has also convened meetings of the Group of 21 countries on Afghanistan in New York on 16th November and again on 6th December, 2001, to discuss the political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

India has been actively associated with and participated in all international efforts, including those by the United Nations, aimed at addressing the political and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. India participated in meetings of the Group of 21 countries. We also participated in the UN sponsored Bonn meeting as an observer. India has supported all efforts aimed at establishing a broad-based and multiethnic government in Afghanistan, which does not radiate extremism and fundamentalism.